

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 PA-01 H-01 SSM-03
ISO-00 INR-10 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 MCT-01 PM-05
/082 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----003061 140251Z /62

O 140111Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 13, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 13. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS TOM RESTON.

Q. THE POST HAS A STORY ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS
ON CLUSTER BOMBS WHICH WE HAVE SOLD TO ISRAEL. DO YOU HAVE
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ANY COMMENT?

A. AS I SAID LAST WEEKEND, WE ARE HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO ASSURING THAT RE-
STRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS WILL BE OBSERVED IN
THE FUTURE.

ON APRIL 11TH, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ MET WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS,
DAVID E. MCGIFFERT. I CANNOT GO INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT
IS BEING DISCUSSED. THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING THROUGH
DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

Q. ARE YOU IMPLYING THEN THAT ISRAEL DID NOT UNDERSTAND
THOSE RESTRICTIONS BEFORE AND, THEREFORE, IT HAS BEEN FOR-
GIVEN FOR THE PRESENT TIME?

A. NO. I AM NOT IMPLYING ANYTHING. I AM SAYING THAT
DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING AND THAT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE HAS MET WITH THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS
THOSE RESTRICTIONS.

Q. IS THERE ANY INCLINATION ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO TIGHTEN THE RESTRICTIONS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. HOW SERIOUSLY IS CONGRESSMAN MCCLOSKEY'S LETTER TAKEN HERE AND DO YOU PLAN ANY RESPONSE TO IT?

A. CONGRESSMAN MC CLOSKEY MADE AN INQUIRY EARLY THIS WEEK AND WE ARE GIVING HIM OUR ANSWER TODAY THROUGH OUR CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON PEOPLE. OBVIOUSLY ANY REQUEST FROM THE HILL IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE NATURE OF THOSE RESTRICTIONS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YOU SAY YOU ARE NOW TRYING TO MAKE SURE ARE OBSERVED?

A. I CAN'T GO INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT THOSE RESTRICTIONS WERE, BUT I CAN SAY ON BACKGROUND, AS I HAVE IN THE PAST, THAT THE RESTRICTIONS WERE NOT LIMITED SOLELY TO THE QUESTION OF TARGETTING, WHAT TARGETS THEY WOULD BE USED AGAINST. BUT I CAN'T GO INTO THE DETAILS OF ALL THE RESTRICTIONS.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY TRANSFER OF CBUS BY ISRAEL TO ETHIOPIA?

A. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THAT IT HAD NOT PROVIDED ETHIOPIA WITH US SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF ANY KIND AND THAT, OF COURSE, WOULD INCLUDE CLUSTER BOMBS AND WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONTRADICT WHAT THE ISRAELI'S HAVE TOLD US.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES CONTINUING TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH THE CBUS, AND HAVE ANY WEAPON SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL BEEN DELAYED IN ANY WAY SINCE THE LEBANESE INCURSION?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. WOULD YOU TAKE IT?

A. YOU MIGHT ASK THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THAT.

Q. HAS PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO DEAL WITH THE PLO WITHIN THE LEBANESE PEACEMAKING PROCESS?

A. I DON'T KNOW, ADIB. I SUGGEST THAT YOU ASK THE WHITE HOUSE THAT QUESTION. THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONGOING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS AND I SUGGEST THAT PROBABLY THEY WOULD BE A BETTER SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE VISIT THAN I WOULD.

Q. WHAT'S THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT RIGHT NOW?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER ON THAT TODAY.

2. THE FOLLOWING ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING OF APRIL 12 WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 13:

Q. WHAT DOES THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT SAY ABOUT REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF ITS PROVISIONS?

A. THE STATUTE IS SILENT ON THE MATTER BUT OBVIOUSLY REPEATED VIOLATIONS WOULD BE A FACTOR IN ANY JUDGMENT MADE UNDER THE LAW. -

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE095854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBHARRIS:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780160-0107
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780457/aaaabwen.tel
Line Count: 196
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 534aa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2968576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 13, 1978
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/534aa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014